

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to open and close an electric power cut-off device, the apparatus comprising:

a motor;

a crank assembly rotatable about an axis, wherein operation of the motor causes rotation of the crank assembly about the axis;

a connecting rod having a first end and a second end, the connecting rod coupled to the crank assembly proximal to the first end, wherein rotation of the crank assembly causes rotational and translational movement of the connecting rod between a first position and a second position;

a first stationary spring abutment positioned a first distance from the crank assembly;

a second stationary spring abutment positioned a second distance from the crank assembly, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance, wherein the first and second spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod;

a mobile element coupled to the connecting rod proximal to the second end and moveable between the first and second stationary spring abutments, the mobile element coupled to the first stationary spring abutment via a first pre-stressed spring and coupled to the second stationary spring abutment via a pre-stressed second spring, at least the first spring configured to urge the connecting rod toward the first position, wherein movement of the connecting rod past a predetermined dead centre position between the first and second position causes at least the first spring to then urge the connecting rod toward the second position.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a stationary abutment element configured to abut the connecting rod and prevent movement of the connecting rod past the second position.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the connecting rod includes a U-shaped receiving member to engage the crank arm in a closed position.
17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first position is a closed position and the second position is an open position.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first position is an open position and the second position is a closed position.
19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein at least one of the spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod.
20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the spring arrangement, the mobile contact, and the jointed elements are located within a stationary housing.
21. (New) An apparatus configured to open and close an electric power cut-off device, the apparatus comprising:

a motor;

a crank assembly rotatable about an axis, wherein operation of the motor causes rotation of the crank assembly about the axis;

a connecting rod having a first end and a second end, the connecting rod coupled to the crank assembly proximal to the first end, wherein rotation of the crank assembly causes rotational and translational movement of the connecting rod between a first position and a second position, the connecting rod including a U-shaped receiving member to engage the crank arm in a closed position;

a first stationary spring abutment positioned a first distance from the crank assembly;

a second stationary spring abutment positioned a second distance from the crank assembly, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance;

a mobile element coupled to the connecting rod proximal to the second end and moveable between the first and second stationary spring abutments, the mobile element coupled to the first stationary spring abutment via a first pre-stressed spring and coupled to the second stationary spring abutment via a pre-stressed second spring, at least the first spring configured to urge the connecting rod toward the first position, wherein movement of the connecting rod past a predetermined dead centre position between the first and second position causes at least the first spring to then urge the connecting rod toward the second position.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a stationary abutment element configured to abut the connecting rod and prevent movement of the connecting rod past the second position.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first and second spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least one of the spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the crank includes a toothed segment.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the motor is configured to assist and control a trajectory of the crank assembly, the motor configured to be powered by a power converter controlled by a position and speed regulator.
27. (New) An apparatus configured to open and close an electric power cut-off device, the apparatus comprising:
- a motor;
  - a crank assembly rotatable about an axis, wherein operation of the motor causes rotation of the crank assembly about the axis;
  - a connecting rod having a first end and a second end, the connecting rod coupled to the crank assembly proximal to the first end, wherein rotation of the crank assembly causes rotational and translational movement of the connecting rod between a first position and a second position;
  - a first stationary spring abutment positioned a first distance from the crank assembly;

a second stationary spring abutment position a second distance from the crank assembly, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance;

a mobile element coupled to the connecting rod proximal to the second end and moveable between the first and second stationary spring abutments, the mobile element coupled to the first stationary spring abutment via a first pre-stressed spring and coupled to the second stationary spring abutment via a pre-stressed second spring, at least the first spring configured to urge the connecting rod toward the first position, wherein movement of the connecting rod past a predetermined dead centre position between the first and second position causes at least the first spring to then urge the connecting rod toward the second position; and

a stationary abutment element configured to abut the connecting rod and prevent movement of the connecting rod past the second position.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the first and second spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the connecting rod includes a U-shaped receiving member to engage the crank arm in a closed position.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein at least one of the spring abutments are stationary with respect to the connecting rod.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the crank includes a toothed segment.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the motor is configured to assist and control a trajectory of the crank assembly, the motor configured to be powered by a power converter controlled by a position and speed regulator.